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Tributes to

# Abraham Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources providing testimonials lauding the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

# Q

From the files of the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

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Quarles, Sen. Joseph V. of Wis.

## An Eloquent Tribute to Lincoln.

At the celebration of the ninety-second birthday of Abraham Lincoln by the Middlesex Club at the Hotel Brunswick in Boston, Tuesday, February 12, 1901, Senator Joseph V. Quarles of Wisconsin delivered an unusually eloquent address. He paid the great President a fine tribute. In a bit of word painting so picturesque and vivid that the production may justly take its place among the masterpieces of oratorical art, he likened him to a great mountain.

Here is the picture:—

A mountain is a mystery; such was Abraham Lincoln It is tall, rugged, isolated; so was he. It has seams and crevices that would disfigure the beauty of a hill, but constitute no blemish on such massive sublimity. Among its rugged crags are sheltered spots of rare beauty, where the sunshine loves to linger, where flowers bloom and cooling streams sparkle, where the rich coloring of nature delights the eye. But there are great patches of denuded rock which tell of the harsh attrition of the early glacier. The clouds that veil its summit lend it an air of mystery and melancholy. Great storms beat up against it with tremendous fury. The lightning with its vivid glow and the quick responses of the deep-toned thunder tell of the awful struggles that are waged about its lofty peak. Yet through storm and tempest it remains unmoved. Its cold, gray surf condenses the moisture in the threatening clouds and s it down in raindrops to refresh and fructify the earth b Its grand mission remains the same through all its v moods.

The same God that made the mountain made His mysteries defy all human analysis.

Mr. Quarles thus further eulogized Abraham

If obstacles surmounted furnish the true te ness, then Abraham Lincoln was by all means man of his age. Recall the dangers and diff beset him at the time of his inauguration. P suffered great disparagement. No other ma times was ever so cordially hated. He was an

comparatively unknown, content to remain in seclusion until the time was ripe for action.

What a theme had he and what inspiration filled his soul! He spoke as never man spoke before. I doubt if in all political history a discourse ever produced an effect so profound and so magical. His address was in every sense a masterpiece. Its argument was strong and comprehensive. Its logic was unanswerable. It unmasked the fallacy of secession in vigorous terms. At the same time its temper was so kindly, even affectionate, that it seemed more like a winsome plea. The delicate skill displayed in its adaptation to the several sections he sought to reach was masterly. It roused the patriotism of the North without alienating the loyalty of the border states. In according to slavery everything that slavery had a right to demand under the constitution it was as generous as it was just. It brought the fire-eaters face to face with the proposition that the Union cause was unassailable except by open and deliberate rebellion.

At one bound this country lawyer, without education or special training, stood forth the best equipped man of his generation to assume a burden which can only be likened to the task that mythology assigned to Atlas. With his face toward the approaching storm he stood undaunted, self-poised, like a divinely appointed leader. To employ his own language, "Without a name, without a reason why I should have a name, there has fallen upon me a task such as did not rest even upon the Father of his Country."

He was at once master of the situation. He was startled, at first blush, to realize that he was superior in leadership to the able men who surrounded him, some of whom he had been taught to regard as demi-gods.

Power never excited in his mind a flush of exultation, but rather deepened the shadow on his melancholy face.

He had one element of strength which contributed largely to his success and which was so rare as almost to differentiate him from other men. Many men, perhaps a majority, are honest, yet how few are exactly fair! Personal tastes, interests, and temperament almost necessarily warp the judgment. Abraham Lincoln could be absolutely fair, because when he approached a public question his own personality seemed to sink out of sight, as though he had said with divine sanction, "Get thee behind me, self!" Neither pride of opinion nor personal prejudice seemed to invade the calm serenity of his official judgment. There no storm ever raged, no mist ever gathered.

Quarles, Senator from Wisconsin

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*The same God that made the mountain made the man. His mysteries defy all human analysis.*

*SENATOR QUARLES, of Wisconsin.*

Quinby, Laurie

# Abraham Lincoln

By LAURIE J. QUINBY

UNCOUTH of frame, gaunt and spare, with awkward mien in which great nature held a wondrous soul in unadorned and unassuming form, our splendid Lincoln stood and walked among the lowly ways of men.

It is one of the pranks of Nature to bestow on man her richest gifts in coverings mean and often vile. It is as though she would not allow her brightest jewels to be seen without his searching. He must dig in to find her choicest gems.

So it was in her giving this plain man to the world.

She started him in the backwoods. She tried him in the ordeals of poverty, of toil, of long hours, of seclusion, of pain and anguish and despair. He stood the test. It left upon his visage the indelible impress of pain and sorrow, but it uncovered the untarnished soul.

She lost him among the famished that he might tell their story to the well fed. He knew the weight of oppression, for he rose from beneath its feet.

So he came forth into the world of men to take his part in the battle for the rights of man.

What Washington and Franklin had made possible; what Jefferson and Hamilton had added to give expression to republicanism; what Jackson had forced again into pure Jeffersonsian democracy, Lincoln preserved as unadulterated Americanism.

Lincoln did more than merely to preserve the integrity of the republic; more than to strike from the limbs of four millions of black men the chains of slavery. He proved that ease and comfort are not the elements that bring out the best in man. He showed how he who is supremely great will tear down all environs that cramp and erect his own, in which his soul might rise unchecked and free. He stood forth as one in whom the divine spark shone with radiant splendor.

Like all great democrats he erected republicanism upon his autocratic will, but always with the democratic ideal in view. He was an autocrat inspired by that high conception of democracy whose aim is to establish a human society in which man shall stand upon his own rights and thereby make autocracy unnecessary and impossible.

He was a teacher whose aim was to raise the pupil to the point where the teacher would prove superfluous.

Love of man and the gentleness of his great soul make of him one of the sweetest memories of the world.

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Tributes